

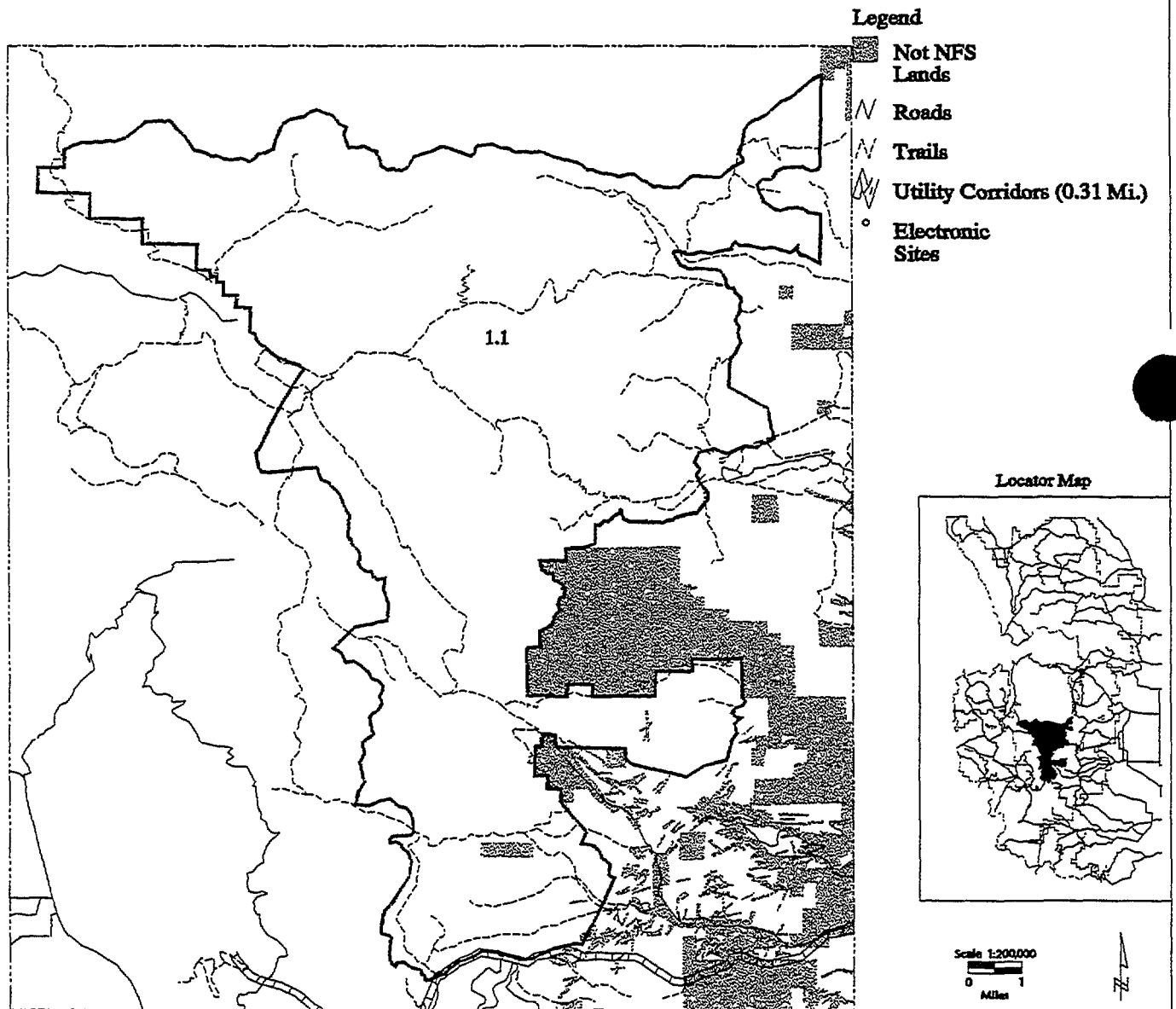
Figure 2.6

Indian Peaks Wilderness Geographic Area

70,782 NFS Acres 223 Non-NFS Acres 71,005 Total Acres

Management Area Prescription Allocation
1.1 - Wilderness

NFS Acres
70,782



INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located between Rocky Mountain National Park and Rollins Pass along both sides of the Continental divide. It contains a mix of subalpine and alpine plant communities consisting of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, lodgepole and limber pine, meadows, tundra, willow carrs, wet areas, rock outcrops, snow and ice fields, glacial lakes and remnant glaciers. Elevations range from 9,800 to 13,502 feet. The Indian Peaks are the key geographic features.

The Wilderness is close to an urban population base of more than 2 million people with quick highway access to the Indian Peaks. Indian Peaks is consequently one of the most frequently visited wilderness areas in Colorado, with the majority of use occurring on the east side of the Continental Divide.

The Indian Peaks is a Class II wilderness with respect to air-quality. The east side of the area is in the Front Range Airshed and within 40 miles of several potential air pollution sources such as coal-fired power plants and major population centers. There are several important visual corridors in this eastern portion of the wilderness which is in the Boulder County non-attainment area for PM-10 (particulate matter). The remainder of the wilderness is in the Granby Airshed west of the Continental Divide.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Emphasize protection of the area for its wilderness character and values while providing opportunities for quality wilderness experiences.

Emphasize old-growth retention. Allow fire to play an active role in maintaining natural conditions within the wilderness whenever possible. This includes using fire to alter vegetative conditions on an opportunity basis. The wildland fire management strategy is prescription control. Allow insect and disease outbreaks to run their course. Rehabilitate disturbed areas as needed to restore habitat quantity and quality for native plant and animal species.

Continue the monitoring program initiated in 1986 to determine the impacts and effects of acid rain in the Indian Peaks through partnerships with state and local regulatory agencies and local interest groups. Current monitoring sites include Blue, Crater, King, No Name and Upper Lakes.

Manage the area for both primitive and semiprimitive, year-round backcountry use. Protect wilderness ecosystems and opportunities by continuing the permit system for overnight use implemented in 1984 and combining the Peak and Four Lakes Travel Zones. Manage this combined travel zone for day use only from May 1st through November 30th. Monitor visitor use to determine if current capacities are still appropriate and to ensure that wilderness values and physical resources are not being compromised. Adjust capacities, as necessary, by

considering actions like adjusting trailhead parking capacity or location and modifying the current permit system.

The travel management strategy for the wilderness will be to retain most of the trail network in the area. Consider trail closures where excessive resource damage is occurring, rights-of-way are lacking, or routes are not maintainable due to environmental conditions. One of the routes that might be considered for closure is the Chittenden Mountain trail. Minimize impacts to other riparian areas and wilderness resources. Consider reconstructing and surfacing the Jean Lunning Trail and the portion of the Pawnee Pass Trail around Long Lake to meet universal accessibility standards.

Pursue land acquisition to consolidate landownership on an opportunity basis.

Standards and Guidelines

1. (ST) Prohibit recreation livestock on the Beaver Creek, Mt. Audubon, Mitchell Lake, Pawnee Pass (from Brainard Lake to Cascade Falls), Jean Lunning, Niwot Cutoff, Niwot Ridge, and Diamond Lake Trails.
2. (ST) Prohibit camping within 100 feet of lake shores, streambanks, and trails.
3. (GL) Use the existing capacity study for the Indian Peaks to determine if new Outfitter/Guide permits will be issued east of the Continental Divide.

Travel Management Strategy, Indian Peaks Wilderness Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
1.1	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	Y	L	L

